

Characters

- RAINBOW: *Twenty-nine years old. Slim and spirited.*
- GRETA: *Twenty-six years old. Slim, handsome, and shy.*
- RAY: *Twenty-seven years old. High-strung and handsome. He wears a dark suit.*

SETTING

A small city. The year is 1958.

RAINBOW's bedroom. A small room. On the left wall there is, upstage, a small door; downstage of the door there is a small window. Downstage of the window there is a chair. In the up right corner of the room there is a small bed with metal foot and headboard. To the left of the bed there is a night table. On the night table there is a book, a pitcher of water, and a glass. On the back wall hangs a painting of a landscape. On top of the bed there is a night gown.

Scene 1: Greta is Ill

SCENE 1: GRETA IS ILL

(RAINBOW *and* GRETA *have just entered.* GRETA *takes off her dress. She is in a slip. She sits on the bed and starts to put on the nightgown.*)

RAINBOW

Don't worry, Greta. I know what to do.

GRETA

What, Rainbow? What can you do?

RAINBOW

I'll find some money. Don't worry.

GRETA

How?

RAINBOW

I'll find money, Greta. I can't tell you how.

GRETA

Why not?

RAINBOW

You won't love me anymore if I tell you how.

GRETA

Tell me.

RAINBOW

Please don't make me tell you.

GRETA

I don't want you to do anything that would make you ashamed.

RAINBOW

I've been in jail.

GRETA

Why? What did you do?

(RAINBOW *helps GRETA lie down. She covers her with the sheet.*)

GRETA

Tell me.

RAINBOW

I've been in jail for stealing.

GRETA

Stealing?

RAINBOW

Yes. I haven't done it since I know you. But now I must do it again. You're ill, and we must take care of you.

GRETA

No! I don't want you to steal for me. You'll be arrested. You'll go to jail. You mustn't.

RAINBOW

I must, my darling.

(*There is a silence. GRETA puts her face on the pillow and sobs.*)

Scene 2: Stealing for Greta

SCENE 2: STEALING FOR GRETA

(GRETA *is lying in bed. RAINBOW sits on the chair.*)

RAINBOW

I got it off his pocket. He came out of the store and put it in his pocket. I grabbed it and ran. He ran after me and grabbed me. He tripped. I yanked my arm off, and I threw him. Look. He tore my sleeve.

(*Putting a wristwatch on GRETA'S hand*)

He ran after me, but I was gone. Went in a building and hid. Saw him pass. Went to the back of the building and got out through the yard. I was afraid to go in the street. I was afraid he may have gone around the block. There's no one there. I walk to the corner and grab a bus. I didn't look like a thief. Would anyone think I'm a thief? Wasn't out of breath. Sat calmly.

(*Getting the watch from GRETA*)

It's a good watch.

GRETA

Get rid of it.

RAINBOW

I'll sell it.

GRETA

To whom?

RAINBOW

I'll find a buyer.

GRETA

I'm afraid.

RAINBOW

Don't be.

GRETA

Just get rid of it.

RAINBOW

We need the money. For you. To make you well.

Scene 3: Rainbow is Caught

SCENE 3: RAINBOW IS CAUGHT

(RAINBOW sits on the chair. She turns her face away from GRETA. Her hand covers her cheek. GRETA lies on the bed.)

GRETA

Look at me! Who hurt you like that?

(RAINBOW turns to face GRETA.)

GRETA

Who did that to you?

RAINBOW

The man whose watch I took.

GRETA

I knew you'd get hurt. I knew you couldn't do what you were doing and not get hurt.

RAINBOW

I got careless. I went back where I got the watch.

GRETA

Why?

RAINBOW

He grabbed me and he made me go with him.

GRETA

Where?

RAINBOW

To his place.

GRETA

Oh!

RAINBOW

I tried to get away. He forced me. I resisted, and he pushed me in He said he'd put me in jail.

GRETA

What did he do to you!

RAINBOW

I had to agree.

GRETA

To what?

RAINBOW

To do something for him.

GRETA

What!

RAINBOW

Meet someone.

GRETA

Who!

RAINBOW

He didn't say.

GRETA

What for?

RAINBOW

He's nasty.

GRETA

Are you afraid?

RAINBOW

Yes.

Scene 4: Greta Wonders if Rainbow Loves Ray

SCENE 4: GRETA WONDERS IF RAINBOW LOVES RAY

(GRETA *lies in bed*. RAINBOW *stands left*.)

RAINBOW

He's like a snake.

GRETA

Do you love him?

RAINBOW

Love him? I hate him. He hates me. He hates me for no reason. Not because of the watch. He never cared about the watch. Just for no reason. He never cared about the watch. That was nothing for him. He hate me. Just because he wants to. I hate him but I have a reason.

(*She goes to the chair.*)

I understand him, though.

GRETA

You do?

RAINBOW

Yes.

GRETA

How can you?

RAINBOW

I think in his heart of hearts he's not the way he appears to be.

GRETA

What is he like? He couldn't be good and do what he does.

RAINBOW

Well, he's not what he appears to be.

(*Pause. GRETA is convinced.*)

GRETA

...Could I have some water?

(RAINBOW *pours water. She lifts GRETA's head up and holds the glass to GRETA'S lips. When GRETA is done, RAINBOW puts the glass down and sits.*)

GRETA

Didn't you already do what you had to do for him? Didn't you already -pay for the watch? Why do you still have to work for him?

RAINBOW

He's a friend.

GRETA

If I die...will you love him then?

RAINBOW

...If you die?

(RAINBOW *goes to the side of the bed and kneels.*)

If you die I'll love you. Whether you live or die it's you I love. And if I ever loved anyone else, it would not be Ray. Not Ray. Never Ray.

(GRETA *laughs.*)

Scene 5: Heute Sind Kleider Eng

SCENE 5: HEUTE SIND KLEIDER ENG

(RAINBOW *sweeps the floor.*)

GRETA

You never wear clothes that fit.

RAINBOW

This?

GRETA

That's a size too small.

RAINBOW

It's my size.

GRETA

Clothes should be looser.

RAINBOW

Not anymore, Madam. Now clothes are tight. How do you say that in German?

GRETA

What.

RAINBOW

What I just said.

GRETA

What.

RAINBOW

Now clothes are tight.

GRETA

Heute sind Kleider eng.

RAINBOW

(Mispronouncing)

Heute sind Kleider eng.

GRETA

(Impatiently)

Heute sind Kleider eng.

RAINBOW

How do you say, "You lose your temper too easily?"

GRETA

Who?

RAINBOW

You.

GRETA

I lose my temper?

RAINBOW

Yes.

GRETA

I don't.

RAINBOW

How do you say it?

GRETA

That I lose my temper?

RAINBOW

Yes.

GRETA

I don't lose my temper.

RAINBOW

How do you say it?

GRETA

Ich werde niemals heftig.

RAINBOW

Ich werde niemals heftig.... I love German!

(She swoons to the floor.)

...I love German.

GRETA

That means "I don't lose my temper."

(As exiting:)

Ha!

Scene 6: Ray Gives Advice to Rainbow

SCENE 6: RAY GIVES ADVICE TO RAINBOW

(RAINBOW stands right, fluffing the pillow. GRETA sits up against the headboard.)

RAINBOW

Can you imagine? And I said to him, "It's you who places too much importance on whether I like men or I like women. For me it's not important. What's important is that since I met Greta it's only she I love."

(Placing the pillow behind GRETA)

That's what's important.

(Taking the bedspread off the bed)

Why should it be important whether I like men or women? Does it make any difference to anyone?

(Taking the bedspread out the door to shake it)

If it doesn't make any difference to anyone, why should anyone care?

(Turning to GRETA, still holding the bedspread)

He said, "If it doesn't make any difference, why don't you choose to love a man?" And I said, "It doesn't make a difference to anyone else, but, of course it makes a difference to me."

(Placing the cover over GRETA)

If I don't like men, why should I pretend that I do? And why should I try to love someone I don't love when I already love someone I love? And besides, do you think it makes a difference to anyone?

GRETA

I suppose it doesn't make any difference to anyone.

RAINBOW

That's right. Why should I force myself.

(Sitting next to GRETA)

And he said, "What difference does anything make? Live, die, it doesn't make any difference." And I said, "Live or die makes a difference. I want to live and I want to be happy, but I don't care about the things you care about." And he said, "What things?" And I said,

(Walking to the chair)

"The way you see things." And I said that I'm not going to pretend to see life the way he does. And he said, "Why not?" that he thought I should. And he said that I should care about those things, and if I don't, I should pretend that I do. And I said

(Sitting),

"Why?" And he said that he talks to me as a brother would, for my own good. And I said I thought he had some nerve, because I thought his life was far from impeccable--far from it. And I told him that.

GRETA

His life is far from impeccable.

RAINBOW

I told him he had some nerve.

GRETA

Your life is impeccable now. I don't see anything wrong with it.

RAINBOW

Neither do I.

GRETA

Your life was peccable when you were working for him. But now that you've paid your debt to him and you don't work for him anymore your life is impeccable. It was he who made your life peccable.

(RAINBOW laughs.)

Why do you laugh?

RAINBOW

How do you say peccable in German?

GRETA

Why?

Scene 7: Greta Wonders How Rainbow Sees Things

SCENE 7: GRETA WONDERS HOW RAINBOW SEES THINGS

(GRETA lies in bed. RAINBOW sits by the window, looking out into the yard.)

RAINBOW

With time they look better and better.

GRETA

What, honey?

RAINBOW

The flowers.

GRETA

How could that be?

RAINBOW

Maybe it's the fertilizer I put on the soil.

GRETA

What looks better?

RAINBOW

The colors. They look healthier.

GRETA

How do you see things? Do you see things different from the way I see them?

RAINBOW

Why do you ask?

GRETA

(Smiling)

I just wondered.

RAINBOW

Why?

GRETA

I worried....

RAINBOW

That we see things differently... ?

GRETA

Yes.

RAINBOW

We don't.

Scene 8: Greta Discovers What Rainbow Does for Ray

SCENE 8:GRETA DISCOVERS WHAT RAINBOW DOES FOR RAY

(GRETA is standing on the chair. She is opening an envelope. She takes out some pictures and looks through them with alarm. She throws them on the floor and stares into space. RAINBOW enters. She looks at the pictures on the floor. Then

she looks at GRETA.)

GRETA

Is that what you do for him!

(RAINBOW kneels down to get the pictures. GRETA tries to reach for the pictures.)

GRETA

Why! Why!

(GRETA starts pounding on RAINBOW and tries to hold her down.)

GRETA

Why! Why are you doing that when I asked you not to! Why do you do that! Why do you do that! Why do you do that! You're lying naked with that man! Who is that man! What is he doing to you! Why do you do that! Why do you take your clothes off! Why do you take such pictures!

RAINBOW

I'm sorry! I'm sorry!

GRETA

Why do you do that!

RAINBOW

I have to.

GRETA

Why!

RAINBOW

Because you must have treatment.

(GRETA cries.)

I don't mind.

(GRETA sobs.)

It's for you.

Scene 9: Greta Admires the Sunlight

SCENE 9: GRETA ADMIRES THE SUNLIGHT

(GRETA sits upstage of the window. The chair faces front. RAINBOW stands next to her.)

GRETA

Could you open the window?

(RAINBOW opens the shutter.)

I like to sit here and see the sun coming in. I like to let it come in through the open window. The sun is brighter that way--or so it seems to me. There are times when I feel disturbed. I feel restless. I feel nasty. And looking at the sun coming in makes

me feel calm.

Scene 10: Greta Thinks that Ray is in Love

SCENE 10: GRETA THINKS THAT RAY IS IN LOVE

(GRETA *stands left of the bed, straightening it.* RAINBOW *sits on the chair.*)

GRETA

Ray was here this afternoon.

RAINBOW

What did he want?

GRETA

He didn't say. He waited for you and then he left.

(*She starts moving down as she smooths the covers.*)

Does he sound to you like he's in love?

RAINBOW

No.

GRETA

He sounds to me like he's in love.

RAINBOW

Who with?

GRETA

I don't know, but he sounds to me like he's in love.

RAINBOW

How does a person in love sound?

GRETA

(*Sits on the right side of the bed*)

A person in love holds his breath a little after inhaling or while they inhale. They inhale, stop for a moment, and inhale a little more.

RAINBOW

I haven't seen him do that.

GRETA

(*She lies on the bed.*)

I have.

RAINBOW

He seems preoccupied to me.

GRETA

Yes, I think he sounds preoccupied. Maybe he's lost money in the market.

RAINBOW

Maybe he has. Why are you concerned about him?

GRETA

I'm not.

RAINBOW

You sound concerned.

GRETA

He's preoccupied.

Scene 11: Rainbow Doesn't Feel Loved Anymore

SCENE 11: RAINBOW DOESN'T FEEL LOVED ANYMORE

(GRETA lies in bed. RAINBOW stands by the door facing her.)

RAINBOW

Something's wrong. Something's wrong because you're not happy, because you have to keep things from me. I know you don't tell me what you think--not everything. Did you ever keep things from me before? Is this something new, or have you always kept things from me?

(Pause)

Is it that you don't love me anymore?

GRETA

(Shaking her head)

No.

RAINBOW

For me to love is adoring. And to be loved is to be adored. So I never felt I was loved before. Till I met you. But I don't feel loved anymore.

Scene 12: Ray Wants Something from Greta

SCENE 12: RAY WANTS SOMETHING FROM GRETA

(GRETA lies in bed. RAY stands to the left of the bed by her feet, facing her.)

GRETA

I lash out at you because I can't deal with you. I can't even understand what you are.

(RAY moves closer to her and starts to lean toward her. She recoils.)

GRETA

You're like some kind of animal who comes to me with strange problems, to make strange demands on me.

(She pushes him off. He persists.)

You come in all sweaty and hungry, and you say you want this and you want that. Take your hands away from me! Not again! Not again! Never again! Don't touch me! Leave me be! I have nothing to give you. Don't tell me that you want these things. Talk about something else. What else can you talk about?

(RAINBOW enters. She is obviously alarmed. She looks at GRETA, then at RAY, then at GRETA again. GRETA turns her head away and sobs. RAINBOW and RAY look at each other.)

Scene 13: Rainbow Leaves Greta

SCENE 13: RAINBOW LEAVES GRETA

(RAINBOW stands at the door looking out. GRETA sits on the bed looking at her. "Melancholy Baby" is heard.)

Come to me, my melancholy baby.
Just cuddle up and don't be blue.
All your fears are foolish fancy, baby.
You know, honey, I'm in love with you.

(GRETA moves to the chair. She sits facing RAINBOW. She looks down.)

Every cloud must have a silver lining.

(GRETA looks at RAINBOW.)

So wait until the sun shines through.
Smile, my honey, dear,
While I kiss away each tear.
Or else I shall be melancholy too.

(GRETA reaches out and takes RAINBOW'S hand. RAINBOW allows her to hold her hand, but does not respond.)

Come sweetheart mine.
Don't sit and pine.
Tell me all the cares
That made you feel so blue.
I'm sorry, hon.

(RAINBOW faces GRETA.)

What have I done.
Have I ever said
An unkind word to you.
My love is true.

(RAINBOW leans over and puts her head next to GRETA's.)

And just for you.
I'll do almost anything
At any time.
Hear when you sigh
Or when you cry.
Something seems to grieve
This very heart of mine.

Come to me my melancholy baby.
Just cuddle up and don't be blue.

(RAINBOW walks to the door slowly and exits while the song plays to the end. GRETA lowers her head. Then she turns to the right. After a while she looks up. As the song is ending, she looks down again.)

Scene 14: Greta Reads Rainbow's Letter

SCENE 14: GRETA READS RAINBOW'S LETTER

(GRETA is sitting on the chair, opening a book. She takes an envelope from it. She opens the envelope, takes out a letter, and reads.)

GRETA

My beloved, I'm sometimes obliged to do things that are dangerous, and to do things that I hate. To befriend people and then betray them. Someday I may be hurt. If this happens and I'm not able to tell you this, I hope one day you'll open this book and find this note. I love you more than anything in the world, and it is to you that I owe my happiness. I always felt that I didn't want to love only halfway, that I wanted to love with all my heart or not at all, and that I wanted to be loved the same way or not at all. With you, I had this, and if anything happens to me, I wanted you to remember this: That you are my angel and I will always love you. Even after death. Forever yours, Rainbow.

END OF PLAY